

Heart hero

May 23 could've been the last day of Fred Elliott's life. But thanks to a recently placed defibrillator and a heroic assistant superintendent, he has survived to play another game.

Elliott, a 66-year-old golf pro at Hidden Valley Country Club in Reno, Nev., was playing in the Sierra Nevada Chapter's championship when a family history of heart issues caught up with him. His group had just moved to the No. 12 tee when he collapsed, suffering cardiac arrest.

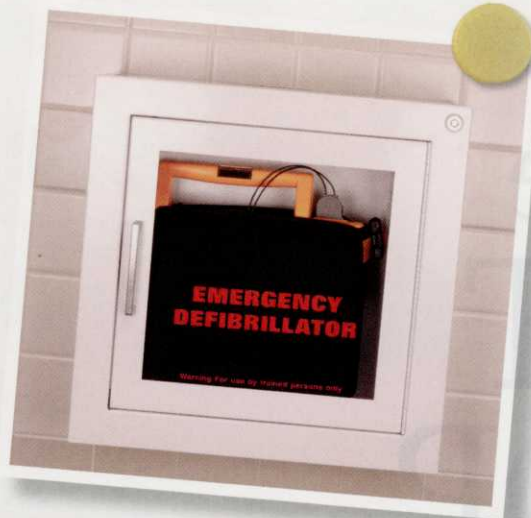
"I was working the green there," says Franco Ruiz, assistant superintendent. "I thought they were playing a joke, but another employee said, 'I think they're having a problem.'"

Though the course had two Automated External Defibrillators, one in the clubhouse and one on a marshal's cart, the country club added two more only this year. They placed them just in April, one between the No. 5 and 6 holes and the other between the No. 11 and 12 holes: the latter right where Elliott had fallen.

Ruiz himself, as well as the rest of the staff, had received training on the AED only a few months earlier, along with a CPR class. He took the device and hooked it up to Elliott.

"I know this person very well. He's been a pro a long time," says Ruiz. "When you see someone you've known for a long time, you feel kind of tight. I had to do something. I tried to do my best. At the time, you think of nothing, just what you're doing."

Ruiz shocked Elliott three times when an ambulance arrived and trucked him to Renown Medical Center. Two stents were placed in a blocked artery and he spent nearly a week in the hospital – but he's alive and home, thanks to Ruiz.



KEEP AN EYE ON THE SKY

As storms pummeled the coast at the end of July, harsh weather gave golfers and course workers more and more reasons to pay attention to the lightning warning signal.

At the Lake of Isles course in North Stonington, Conn., course workers had sought shelter from the storms in a grounded, enclosed building on the course. Seven of them had headed in when lightning struck the ground nearby.

All seven workers were conscious and alert when they were taken to the local hospital, say state police.



From THE FEED

GCI's Pat Jones recently caught up on the newest happenings in the power equipment world at the annual OPEI meeting, reporting on speakers and notable events through Twitter.

GCI @GCImagazine The legendary Howard Fineman of Newsweek, NBC and Huffpo fame now speaking to the @OPEIInstitute meeting.

GCI @GCImagazine Fineman: Twitter is the ultimate expression of today's short attention span ethos. #youkidsgetoffmylawn!

Russell Heller @fpsuper Totally agree. Twitter has caused me to



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